

admission to the department of exercise science

Exercise scientists study the relationship between exercise participation and human health. Their research focuses on understanding why regular physical activity prevents disease and promotes health.

Career opportunities exist in academic institutions, hospitals, medical clinics, research laboratories, physical therapy facilities, rehabilitation facilities, perceptual-motor development clinics, health and fitness centers, and public health agencies.

Jobs in the field include clinical exercise physiologist, motor rehabilitation specialist, health fitness instructor, professor of exercise science, research scientist, physical therapist, and cardiac rehabilitation program director.

Degrees offered: BS, MS, Ph.D.,
DPT, MPH



The mission of the Department of Exercise Science is to expand and disseminate the body of knowledge concerning the relationship between physical activity and human health.

The Department's Ph.D. program prepares graduates for entry into positions in universities, colleges, research institutes, and research-oriented clinical settings. Areas of specialization are applied physiology, health aspects of physical activity, and motor behavior/rehabilitation. Specific research emphases correspond to those listed for the departmental faculty (www.sph.sc.edu/exscmain.asp). The MS program allows students to emphasize expansion of research competence (for those who plan on pursuing a Ph.D. degree or further graduate study) or to focus on professional and clinical aspects of the field with concentrations in cardiac rehabilitation, corporate wellness, and motor control/development.

The goal of the Department's Doctor of Physical Therapy program is to produce graduates who possess the skills necessary to be reflective practitioners and who can conduct clinical research and scholarly activity necessary for the advancement of physical therapy as an evidence-based profession.

Admission Requirements

Specific information and links regarding admissions, including deadline dates, can be found at the Arnold School of Public Health webpage: <http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/index.htm>.

The admission requirements for all degree programs follow those of The Graduate School and include:

1. a completed application (apply through Graduate School at <http://gradschool.sc.edu/gap>, except for MPH students. These students must apply through SOPHAS at www.sophas.org);
2. official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work previously undertaken (international applicants will need to have non-US institution transcripts verified by World Education Services (WES) or equivalent evaluation service);
3. GRE scores (combined verbal and quantitative) of 900 for MS and 1000 for Ph.D. and DPT;
4. three letters of recommendation;
5. a statement of career goals addressing professional objectives; for Ph.D. and DPT, research interests should be discussed;
6. resume or curriculum vitae;
7. for all international applicants, satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the IELTS Academic Course Type 2 Exam;
8. and a completed supplemental application for DPT applicants.

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Degree Programs in Exercise Science

Ph.D. in Exercise Science

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in exercise science is designed to prepare students for research careers in the exercise sciences. Students complete an approved program that contains 60 hours beyond the undergraduate level, and includes a specific cognate of interest, independent study (research) hours and dissertation hours. Refer to the Department of Exercise Science Web page (www.sph.sc.edu/exsc) for a better understanding of specific areas of research and clinical interests.

MPH in Physical Activity and Public Health

The Master of Public Health in Physical Activity and Public Health (MPH-PHPA) degree offers specializations in two areas: Programmatic and Surveillance. This degree is designed to prepare health professionals who have a career interest in physical activity. To learn more, visit <http://www.sph.sc.edu/exsc/phpa.htm>.

MS in Exercise Science

The Master of Science degree in exercise science is designed to provide in-depth, scientific, and research-based study in exercise science. The program requires 39 credit hours, including either three credit hours of project or six credit hours of thesis. The curriculum provides for advisor-approved electives that provide flexibility to meet career objectives. The degree is excellent preparation for admission to professional schools in biomedical science and allied health. For a better understanding of specific areas of research and clinical interests, refer to the Department of Exercise Science Web page (www.sph.sc.edu/exscmain.asp).

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

The Physical Therapy Program is dedicated to preparing students who possess the necessary skills to advance physical therapy as an evidence-based profession. The Physical Therapy Program focuses on providing students with a philosophy that the practice of physical therapy requires the application of existing knowledge, continual evaluation and adaptation of existing knowledge, and the generation of new knowledge. Refer to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Web page (www.sph.sc.edu/dpt) for a better understanding of specific areas of research and clinical interests.

For More Information:

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USC in Focus

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The University offers more than 350 degree programs. Many programs are nationally and internationally ranked. If you want to learn more about the University of South Carolina, visit the Web site at www.sc.edu.

Information about the city of Columbia can be found at www.columbiasc.net or www.columbiacvb.com.



Additional Information about the Arnold School

If you have questions or need additional information on how you can receive a rewarding degree from the Arnold School of Public Health, visit our Web site at www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents or e-mail the Office of Student Services at: sphstsr@mailbox.sc.edu.
Phone: 803-777-5031

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